

**U.S. Department of Energy
Hanford Site**

AUG 12 2013

13-HAB-0029

Mr. S. E. Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Hudson:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) JUNE 7, 2013, CONSENSUS ADVICE #266, "2014-2015 BUDGET PRIORITIES"

Thank you for your letter on advice #266 on the 2014-2015 Budget Priorities (enclosed). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the HAB's continued interest in the cleanup work at Hanford.

Below are the responses to the points in your advice:

Advice Point #1: The Board advises DOE to request full funding to meet all compliance obligations and to address new emergent threats, such as leaks from single shell and double shell high-level nuclear waste tanks (HAB #263).

Response: Both the DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) have requested funding required to meet compliance obligations. Both RL's and ORP's requests place priority on funding for minimum safe operations, including funding required to address emerging risks as necessary.

Advice Point #2: The Board advises that funds be requested in FY 2014 and 2015 for responding to leaks in both single and double shell tanks (e.g., retrieval and treatment, if appropriate, for single shell tank wastes); and provide for planning and construction of additional tank storage capacity.

Response: ORP has considered and reflected the near-term and longer range plans for the safe storage of chemical and radioactive tank waste in the fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request. Although many of the current tank farm challenges were not present when ORP submitted the FY 2014 budget request in June 2012, ORP routinely interacts with the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) as well as with members of our congressional delegation to ensure that issues are considered throughout the congressional process.

Advice Point #3: The Board advises that DOE provide ample time for regulator, Board, and public review of a proposed FY 2015 Priority List for DOE-ORP prior to submission of proposals to DOE-HQ. The Board is very concerned that DOE-ORP did not provide any proposed FY 2015 budget for the Board or public to review.

*Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450
Richland, Washington 99352*

*Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352*

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Response: ORP appreciates the feedback received from the Regulators, Board, and members of the public during the annual budget formulation process. Unfortunately, due to technical and funding uncertainties, ORP was unable to provide a FY 2015 Priority List for review but did provide the opportunity for our stakeholders to address priorities and concerns based on FY 2013 and 2014 planned accomplishments. The input received did assist ORP in developing the requirements for the FY 2015 budget request. ORP will continue to update the Board as information is available with the intent to provide early involvement in the FY 2016 budget formulation process.


Advice Point #4: The Board advises DOE to present its current methodology for prioritizing projects and to consider, as reflected in the HAB Values White Paper, the following criteria identified as key to this decision-making process:

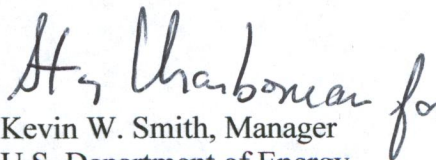
- Does the planned cleanup protect the Columbia River and reduce risk to workers, the environment, and/or the public (priority for immediate risk, followed by generally short-term and long-term risks)?
- Does the cleanup action maintain/meet/move towards attainment of TPA milestones, consent decree, and/or RCRA permit requirements?
- Will delaying the cleanup project result in increased lifecycle costs and result in a predicted increase in total cleanup cost?

Response:

The criteria identified in this advice are aligned with the overall methodology established for prioritization by EM as well as the more specific criteria utilized at RL and ORP. Specifically, both offices maintain worker and public safety as their highest priorities and focus on safe and effective cleanup that protects the Columbia River.

Thank you again for your advice on this subject. If you have any questions, you may contact us or you may contact Kim Ballinger at (509) 376-6332.


Matt McCormick, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office


Kevin W. Smith, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

OCE:KSB

Enclosure

cc w/encl: See page 3

Mr. S. E. Hudson
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cc w/encl:

C. B. Alexander, EM-3.2
D. A. Faulk, EPA
J. A. Frey, RL/ORP-DDFO
M. A. Gilbertson, EM-10
T. Gilley, Enviroissues
S. Hayman, Enviroissues
J. A. Hedges, Ecology
W. M. Levitan, EM-10
M. A. Turner, MSA
T. L. Sturdevant, Ecology
S. G. Van Camp, EM-23
M. Zhu, EM-11
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